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Approved For Release 2001/03/05 : CIA-RDP82-00457R00510038

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 30 JUN 50

SUBJECT Production of Ball Bearings at Kysucke Nove Meste
and at Lisen Plant of Zbrojovka Brno

NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1C
PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1A
DATE OF
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The ball bearing plant which was reported to be in initial stages of construction at Kysucke Nove Meste is to be known as Valo (Valiva loziska), National Corporation, and is to produce all types of anti-friction bearings.
2. The management of Valo had been established in Prague during 1947, under the direction of Ing. Ajmuta. Originally, this management was to handle only the distribution of supplies on hand and the importation of ball bearings. Production of ball bearings had been assigned to the Czechoslovakian Metallurgical Industry according to the Two-Year Plan introduced in January 1947. Therefore, Valo entered into negotiations with SKF in Sweden, with Hoffmann in England, and with the U.S. for surplus war stocks of bearings, but these negotiations were not successful and Ing. Ajmuta was discharged.
3. With the Kugel-Fischer reparations machines set up in Lisen, Zbrojovka Brno agreed to produce 2,500,000 ball bearings by the end of 1948. Although it did not meet this target, Zbrojovka was placed in charge of the entire bearing program.
4. The lack of ball bearings continues. The Lisen plant produces only certain types and sizes of ball bearings, so that purchases must be made abroad, through intermediaries in Switzerland, Holland, and Italy, of American and British ball bearings. Instructions have been issued that, wherever possible, ball bearings be replaced by roller bearings. Since foreign machinery has not been procurable, Zbrojovka is attempting to copy and reconstruct machinery already in Czechoslovakia and to develop new machines.

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Document No. **W-111111**
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Class. Changed To: TS S C
Auth. HR 14-2